

May God be with you: **and also with you.**

Announcements

Praise Band (MF)

Passing of the Peace

Share in the ancient Christian practice of sharing peace & reconciliation.

Within our sanctuary, and out into the wider world.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Eternal God, who made this most holy day
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and may it be a lamp unto our feet,
and a light unto our path.

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

* We Prepare our Hearts:

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

* Hymn: Come In, Come In and Sit Down (VU 395)

Opening Prayer (unison):

**Let this be the welcoming place
the place of return**

**and let it be built by a love
that bends towards those who return here**

**for it is a love that has been waiting
like a candle in the window
ever lighting the way back
and never willing to let go
the hope that each child
will return home**

**let it be the place where
the only appropriate response
to love that has come to the end of its longing
is to kill the fatted calf,
feast and celebrate
and prepare the party
for that which has been lost
has returned to be among us
AMEN**

We Listen for God's Word

* Hymn: Amazing Grace (VU 266)

Wonder Time

Prayer for Illumination: (MV 12, v 3)

***Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason.
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream.
Help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.***

Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

These words are offered as wisdom for our journey.

May we walk together in their truth.

Ministry of Music/Choir

Sermon: The Loving Father

* Hymn: (WL) Come Let Us Sing (VU 574)
(MF) Draw the Circle Wide (VU 145)

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering for the Work and Witness of the Church
Offertory

May 3, 2026

* Offering Response: (MV 135)
***Called by earth & sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life, sanctified,
called by earth & sky.***

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People
A New Creed (VU p 918)

We Go Out to Love & Serve God's World

* Hymn: We are Pilgrims (VU 595)

* Sending Forth

We scatter like seeds on the wind!

Rejoicing in life that cannot be contained!

We scatter to grow joy and hope and love:

We will share the good news!

For Christ is risen!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah

* Sung Benediction: You Shall Go Out With Joy (VU p 884)



**The United Church of Canada
Mount Forest-Woodland Pastoral Charge
Woodland – 9:15 a.m. Mount Forest – 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Lori Campbell**